

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a further embodiment, the network gateway function is provided using at least two spatially separated units. In one refinement, a network gateway unit transmits the user data between the various networks. A control unit which controls the network gateway unit is set up spatially remote from the network gateway unit and controls the network gateway unit using a defined control protocol. The protocol according to ITU-T standard H.248 "Gateway Control Protocol" or according to Defacto standard RFC ~~2507~~ 2705 (Request For Comment), which is also known under the name MGCP (Media Gateway Control Protocol), is thus used. This measure enables the control unit to be used to control a number of network gateway units.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Furthermore, in the switching office 100, during the processing of the ANM 156, the ANM 160 provided in the ISUP standard, as at time t24, is forwarded to the next switching office; i.e., to the transit switching office 20a. The further transmission of the voice data takes place as provided for in the ISUP standard or as provided for in the standard group relating to the standard H.323.